

and to work. We don't have transparency in the health care business these days.

□ 2250

You can't just ask a hospital chief executive officer, as I have, how much a hospital room costs and get an answer, because they either don't know or it depends on whether it is the insurance company, the Federal Government, somebody paying cash, all these kinds of things. But I know from one personal relative, the bills they had for 2 days of hospital care was around \$10,000, and the health insurance company satisfied every one of them, paid in full all \$10,000 in costs, with \$800 from the insurance company. That is the kind of transparency we need. But that kind of transparency right now is protected by contracts, and the State and Federal law have continued to allow that kind of thing to go on. We need transparency.

For those that wondered, I have mentioned a solution. The bill I filed, H.R. 3478, deals with these issues. First of all, when you heard the President talk about his health care plan, the Democrats down the hall have talked about their plan, and at first they were so excited because it was going to come to just under \$900 billion. Then we find out we made a mistake; it is going to be over \$1 trillion. Whether it is the President's plan, over \$1 trillion, or the Baucus bill, over \$1 trillion, whatever it is, even around \$1 trillion, the last numbers we got from the census indicated there were about 119 million households in America.

If you divide 119 million households into \$1.19 trillion in the Democratic health care bill, the cost, because it is going to be around there—some have said it might be closer to \$2 trillion. They are probably right, but we don't know, they don't know, we don't know. But if you divide that by the number of households in America, then it is an extra \$10,000 average per household for the Democrat new bill. And that doesn't even cover all the people they are saying need to be covered. It still leaves a gap, people uncovered.

So we need to get back to health insurance that people can afford that will get the health insurance companies back into the health insurance business. Of course, many of them came rushing to the White House and said they needed a seat at the table. I tried to explain, whether it is the AMA, the American Hospital Association, or individual health insurance companies, that you don't need a seat at the table when you are on the menu and your profession will be devoured. You may be able to negotiate it to be the third or fourth course, but are still going to be devoured. You don't want a seat at that table.

Anyway, my bill, when I saw that Medicare itself was apparently costing around \$10,000 average for every household in America to pay for a very small percentage of our population who need-

ed health insurance, our seniors, for Medicare and Medicaid, over \$10,000 now apparently being paid per household average for that small part to have health care through Medicare and Medicaid, when I saw that, I thought, my goodness, this is outrageous.

I know my mother and other people pay all this extra money for supplemental coverage, wraparound coverage of Medicare. For what we are paying for Medicare and Medicaid, we would be better off to give them cash money, say, \$3,500 for a household with more than one person in it getting Medicare and Medicaid and SCHIP, just give them \$3,500 cash in a health savings account they control with a debit card that can only be used for health care, and then buy them health insurance that covers anything that is not elective. We can't be paying for people if they want liposuction, things like that. But if it is necessary health care, then provide insurance to cover everything beyond the \$3,500, and buy them that insurance.

Now, I have a bill we have been trying to get scored since August 19th. We have been trying. We have had all of the Republican prominent people involved in the committees—the Joint Tax Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee. They have all been begging CBO to give a value to my plan. It also deals with illegal aliens and with people coming in who want visas. They would have to have health insurance. It gives transparency. It is a great bill.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ABERCROMBIE (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and until 3:30 p.m. on October 28.

Mr. BACA (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for October 23 on account of legislative business.

Mr. BOYD (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. CARTER (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a travel delay.

Mr. CULBERSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of travel.

Ms. MCCOLLUM (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today and until 3 p.m. October 27 on account of official business.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of a scheduling conflict.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of travel delays due to inclement weather.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TONKO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MORAN of Kansas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, October 29.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today, October 27, 28, 29 and 30.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, November 2.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today, October 27, 28, 29 and 30.

Mr. WESTMORELAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAULSEN, for 5 minutes, today and October 27.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INGLIS, for 5 minutes, November 2.

(The following Member (at his request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. ELLISON, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker on Friday, October 23, 2009:

H.R. 2647. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 27, 2009, at 10:30 a.m., for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4267. A letter from the Co-Chair, Commission on War Time Funding, transmitting a report entitled "Defense agencies must improve their oversight of contractor business systems to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4268. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting lists of procurement priorities provided